

STORY 63.

A UNIQUE MUSLIM RULER.

ISLAMIC IDEAL OF PUBLIC HONESTY.

(HAZRAT) OMAR bin Abdul Aziz was one of those ideal rulers who may be said to be the embodiment of the spirit of Islam. His relatives often pressed him to make them grants of money from the Bait-ul-Mal, but he never yielded to their demands, telling them frankly that the Bait-ul-Mal contained public money which was meant only for the needy.

He was so strictly honest in the use of public money that whenever he held a durbar for transacting public business he had oil for the lamp from the public funds, but as soon as the business was over, he put it out and lighted his own private lamp.

(Hazrat) Omar bin Abdul Aziz was the son-in-law of Abdul Malik bin Marwan. Abdul Malik had given his daughter, the wife of (Hazrat) Omar, a pearl of great value. When (Hazrat) Omar became Khalifa, he requested his wife to transfer all her jewels to the Bait-ul-Mal, otherwise he would have nothing to do with her. He told her that the money with which the jewels had been purchased had come from the Bait-ul-Mal, and so had been unlawfully spent, that good lady acted as her husband desired without any protest.

After the death of (Hazrat) Omar, Yazid son of Abdul Malik became Khalifa. He told his sister to take back her jewels. But she refused saying, "I gave them away willingly to please God and my husband, now that he is no more it is not meet for me to take them back."